

# Mining Report



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ▶ **Provincial Mine Rescue**
- ▶ **Willow Creek – Falls Mountain Coal – Pine Valley Coal Corporation**
- ▶ **Do you know Coal?**
- ▶ **Reader Survey**

## MEDIA ROOM

## CONTACT US

## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR:

### **NEBC Community Coal Forum**

Oct. 19 – 20 in Tumbler Ridge

### **East Kootenay Chamber of Mines 2005 Conference**

Oct. 25th – 27th in Cranbrook

### **Coaltrans Conference**

Nov. 7 – 8 Four Seasons in Vancouver

### **Yellowknife Geoscience Conference**

Nov. 15 – 17 in Yellowknife



## MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION - KEY TO BC GROWTH

August 31, 2005  
COQUITLAM-  
Minister Bill Bennett (middle) is joined by Deputy Minister Greg Reimer (left) and Brian Weeks of Mainland



Sand and Gravel, at the Jack Cewe Pipeline Road mining operation, one of the ten largest aggregate mines in Canada producing over one million tonnes per year.

## GALORE CREEK EXPLORATION LOOKING FOR GOLD





August 3, 2005  
**GALORE CREEK PROJECT** - Minister Bill Bennett (near right) and Bulkley-Valley Stikine MLA Dennis MacKay (far left) examine core samples with Scott Petsel, the project geologist (near left, in yellow) after a



tour of Galore Creek Project, led by Sue Craig, Land and Environmental Manager for Nova Gold Resources Inc.

Minister Bennett also toured key mine sites and surrounding communities in NWBC earlier in the summer to learn about the challenges facing the remote mining sectors, and discover the many possibilities and opportunities that exist in mining today.

## DO YOU KNOW COAL?

-  The coal industry provides over 3,250 direct jobs and supports B.C.'s railways and coal ports.
-  Over \$500 million in CP's rail revenue is from coal.
-  BC provides 38% of Canada's coal production – providing energy and the raw materials that are needed by the manufacturing and construction industries.
-  BC is the world's 2nd largest metallurgical coal exporter.

## Notes from the Minister

This is my first report as the minister responsible for mining in British Columbia. I'm honoured to have been chosen for this important position and I look forward to the opportunity to meet with people involved with the mining industry. Coming from the East Kootenay, I know first hand the many benefits your industry provides, good family-supporting jobs, economic benefits to communities, a strong and healthy growth industry – up to \$5 billion is predicted for this year, and all of this achieved through the use of 0.03% of our land base.

I will work with industry to find more ways to streamline regulatory processes, to promote exploration investment and the growth of new mines, and to ensure that the people of BC and my caucus colleagues have a full understanding and appreciation of how mining in BC benefits each and every one of us.



Honourable Bill Bennett  
Minister of State for  
Mining

Our government was given a mandate to achieve, over the next four years, Five Great Goals for a Golden Decade, which mining plays an important part in accomplishing.

I intend to work closely with mining companies and First Nations to ensure that we all share fully and equally in the progress towards our Goals. As BC's New Relationship with First Nations takes shape, industry and government will work collaboratively to create more benefits in a timely fashion.

*continued, Notes*

## 50TH ANNUAL PROVINCIAL MINE RESCUE A SUCCESS

June 11, 2005 - **KAMLOOPS**

The Mining Association of British Columbia, in conjunction with the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources hosted the 50th Annual Provincial Mine Rescue Competition on June 11th in Kamloops. While emergency training is year-round, this is the week that companies cranked their emergency preparedness up a notch in order to compete at the two-day competition. Fording River, Elk Valley Coal took home the overall trophy for Surface Mine Rescue Award. NVI Myra Falls was the recipient of the Underground Competition Award and Coal Mountain, of Elk Valley Coal took home the Three-Person Miners' First Aid Trophy.



## WESTERN REGIONAL MINE RESCUE SESSIONS

September 9th – 10th hosted by the City of Fernie – Minister Bill Bennett had the wonderful opportunity to tour around another successful competition, meeting the dedicated men and women who make safety a priority in mining in BC. *Congratulations to Highland Valley Copper, who won the Surface competition, and NVI, Myra Falls, who took home the underground award!*

## PINE VALLEY COMMEMORATES OFFICIAL OPENING OF WILLOW CREEK MINE

July 7, 2005 **CHETWYND** - Minister Bill Bennett (left) is joined by Graham Mackenzie, CEO Pine Valley Mining Corp., and MLA Peace River South Blair Lekstrom (right) at Falls Mountain's Willow Creek mine to unveil a plaque commemorating the official opening of Canada's newest metallurgical mine in 20 years. "I want to thank Falls Mountain Coal and Pine Valley Mining Corporation for their investment in Willow Creek mine. One of our government's great goals is to create jobs and this project does that while also



providing economic prosperity for communities. The B.C. Mining Plan lays out a path forward to a thriving, globally competitive, safe and environmentally responsible exploration and mining sector, significantly benefiting all British Columbians," said Bennett. Jeff Fehn, Chairman of Pine Valley, noted that Willow Creek Mine shipped its first coal to customers in September 2004 and that they are capable of producing 2.2 million tonnes of coal per year.

*Notes cont.*

This past summer has been a busy one for me, getting familiar with my role as your advocate in Victoria and traveling and touring northwest, northeast and southeast BC, where I spoke with communities, First Nations and industry and listened to their concerns. I've seen some of the success stories like Eskay Creek and Kemess and I've seen the potential of places like Red Chris and Galore Creek.

Recently, I had the occasion to address the BC Yukon Chamber of Mines Breakfast Speaker Series where I spoke about my beginnings in the mining industry, and my introduction to the excitement of exploration at a small gold mine 140 miles north of Whitehorse. I also talked about this government's commitment to the industry, recognition of the potential of great things that we can accomplish by working together, and the magnificent opportunity to become North America's foremost crossroads to the Asia-Pacific markets.

In the next year, I will continue to visit existing mines and exploration sites, getting to meet more of the many hard-working people in the mining industry who contribute so much to this great province. I know we can all look forward to a prosperous and productive year in mining in BC.

### GEM OF A QUOTE

**Graham Mackenzie**, Pine Valley's President and Chief Executive Officer, commented on the opening of the new mine. "Today is a proud day for Pine Valley, its employees, investors and customers. We are grateful for the hard work and sacrifices made by our employees, the faith demonstrated by our investors and customers, and the support and encouragement provided by the Government of British Columbia."

## READER SURVEY:

- What would you like to see in future issues of the Mining Report?
- What concerns or questions would you like to ask the new Minister of State for Mining, the Honourable Bill Bennett?

Please send your comments, queries and feedback to:

**Mining Report** [Barbara.Stewart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Barbara.Stewart@gov.bc.ca)

